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EDITORIALS.

THE circular of information regarding the Sixth International Congress of Geologists, to be held at Zurich from August 29th to September 2d, presents a most inviting programme of excursions, which may be taken by members of the Congress, in the picturesque and geologically famous regions of the Swiss Alps and the neighboring Jura Mountains. It is proposed to organize two groups of excursions conducted by geologists, many of whom have devoted the better part of their lives to the investigation of the country visited. The first group will be offered immediately before the meeting of the Congress, and is so arranged that those participating in them will arrive at Zurich a day or two before the opening of the Congress. These excursions will be devoted to various portions of the Jura Mountains. They will be organized in different towns, where those intending to take the excursions are to join the conductors of the parties. The second group of excursions take place immediately after the Congress adjourns, and will start from Zurich on September 3d, and will traverse the Alps by various routes, terminating at Lugano, about September 16th, where the Congress will be formally closed. There will be two classes of excursions. One class will be made on foot, in order that the geology of the country may be more carefully examined. The other will be by means of conveyances. The pedestrian excursions will necessarily be open to a limited number of persons, and warning is served that a certain amount of quasi-military discipline will be required by the leader, from which appeal may be made to the whole body of participants. The expediency of such a regulation will be apparent to all who have attempted to conduct similar tours. The second class of excursions will make use of railways, steamboats and carriages, and will aim to reduce to a minimum the distance to be gone over on

foot. The management of the details of transportation of these excursions will be entrusted to the agency of Messrs. Ruffieux and Ruchonnet at Lausanne ; their scientific direction will be undertaken by Professor Renevier and Professor Gollier, of the University of Lausanne. The first excursion of this sort will start from Geneva, where those participating in it will assemble on the 15th of August, and will spend thirteen days visiting localities in or near the Jura, including the environs of Geneva, Lausanne, Neuchâtel, Bâle, and the Falls of the Rhine. The second of these "voyages en zig-zag" will start from Zurich on September 3d, and will spend thirteen days in the most delightful parts of the Alps, visiting, among other points, the Rigi, St. Gothard, the Lake of the Four Cantons, the Jungfrau, the Matterhorn, and the Italian lakes. The cost of the first excursion is to be \$60, and of the second \$80.

Of the pedestrian tours, five are to take place before the meeting at Zurich. One, under the direction of Professor Schardt, of Montreux, will devote six days to the French Jura in the neighborhood of Geneva, the rendezvous being at Geneva, August 21st. The second, conducted by Professor Jaccard, of Neuchâtel, will spend five days in the Jura of Vaudois and in the neighborhood of Neuchâtel. The rendezvous is to be at Pontarlier, August 22d. The third excursion, in charge of M. Rollier, of Bienne, will spend six days in the Bernese Jura, the rendezvous at Delémont, August 21st. The fourth, under the direction of Professor C. Schmidt, of Bâle, will devote five days to the vicinity of Bâle and the country east of the Argovian Jura ; the rendezvous at Bâle, August 21st. The fifth excursion, under Professor Mühlberg, of Aarau, will spend five days in the Argovian Jura and in the neighborhood of Soleure. The rendezvous will be at Aarau, August 23d.

There will be four pedestrian tours after the meeting of the Congress, one under the leadership of Professor Heim, of Zurich, who will conduct a party over the eastern Alps of Switzerland from St. Gallen to Tessin, studying the compressed folds in the Sântis, and crossing the great Glärner double fold. Professor C.

Schmidt will conduct a party over the central Alps from Zurich to Lugano, visiting the "cliffs" of the Mythen and following the Gothard route across the crystalline axis of the Alps. Professor Baltzer, of Bern, will conduct another party over the Bernese Alps, from Lucerne to Tessin, examining the intricately plicated strata of the Gstellhorn, passing over the Grimsel and visiting the glaciers of the Unteraar and the Rhône. Professor Schardt will lead a party over the western Swiss Alps from Bulle, studying the complicated structure of the Alps of Freiburg, and crossing the Tête-Noire to Domo-d'Ossola. These excursions will furnish foreign geologists the best possible opportunity of becoming acquainted with the complex structure and widespread metamorphism which have become classic through the untiring energy and intelligent investigation of the Swiss Geologists. It goes without saying that all who can find the time and means at their command will avail themselves of these exceptional opportunities, and that the Sixth International Congress of Geologists will surpass its predecessors both in the number of members attending and in the benefits derived from the meeting.

J. P. I.